

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 29, 2004. Claims 45, 46, 48, 49 and 51-65 are presented for examination, of which Claims 45, 48, and 51 are in independent form. Claims 47 and 50 been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 45, 48, 49, 51-53, 58, 59, 62 and 63 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 45 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, on the ground of insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the inquiry" at line 11 of these claims. The independent claims have been amended to ensure proper antecedence for that term, thus obviating this rejection, withdrawal of which is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 45, 46, 48, 49 and 51-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,228,118 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent 5,580,177 (Gase et al.).

The general nature of the invention has been adequately discussed in previous papers. The aspect of the invention to which independent Claim 45 is directed, is an information processing apparatus that comprises a determiner adapted to determine a presence or an absence of a printer selected by a user connected to the network by sending inquiry, as well as an inquiry circuit adapted to make an inquiry about a printer language supported by the printer connected to the network by sending an inquiry about information to the network, and a receiver adapted to receive information about the printer language supported by the printer, wherein the information about the printer language is sent in response to the latter inquiry. Also, according to Claim 45, activation of the inquiry circuit and receiver occurs in response to selection of the printer.

An apparatus constructed according to Claim 45 dynamically acts as follows:

- 1) a printer is selected by a user;
- 2) an inquiry is made as to the presence or absence of the selected printer, to determine whether the printer is an active printer; and
- 3) an inquiry is made as to a language supported by the active printer determined in step 2).

By virtue of the structure recited in Claim 45, a user can be notified of a language supported by a printer just by selecting the printer.

At the very least, Applicants submit that nothing in *Gase* and *Sasaki*, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if any exists) would teach or suggest any arrangement which would meet the feature that the “inquiry circuit and receiver [are] activated in response to selection of a printer”, and at least by virtue of that Claim 45 is deemed to be clearly allowable over those two patents. Even if *Sasaki* and *Gase* are deemed to show all that they are cited for, and even if the proposed combination of those patents is deemed a proper one, the result of the combination would not meet the quoted language of Claim 45. For at least that reason, Claim 45 is believed to be clearly allowable over those two patents.

Independent Claims 48 and 51 are, respectively, a method and a computer-readable memory-medium claims that correspond to apparatus Claim 45, and are deemed over the art for the same reasons as discussed above.


A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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